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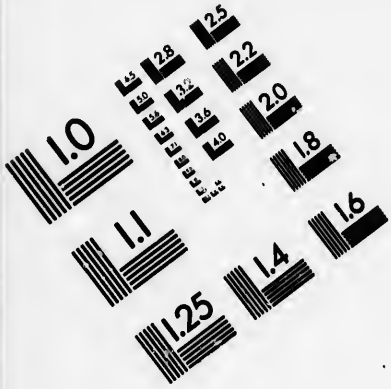

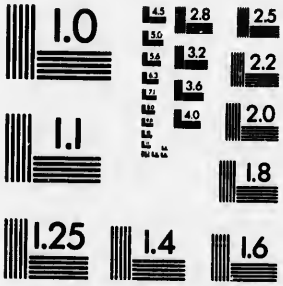

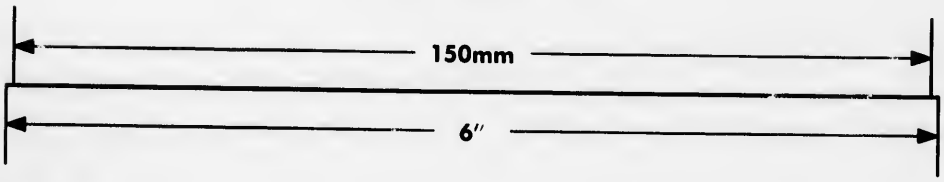

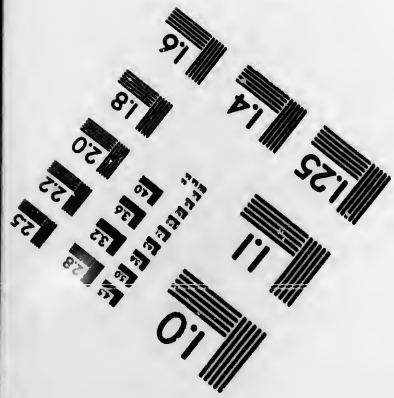

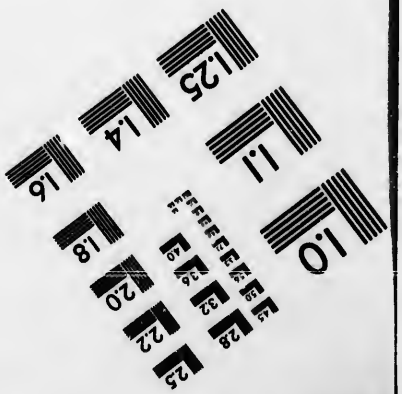

APPLIED IMAGE, Inc
1653 East Main Street
Rochester, NY 14609 USA
Phone: 716/482-0300
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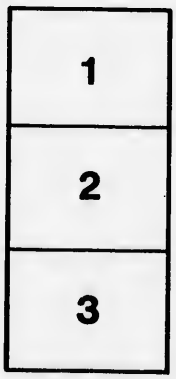

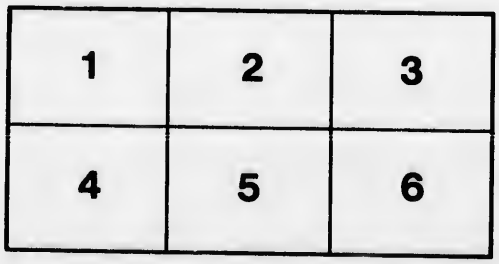

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

DAUGHTERS OF RUTH

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

CANADIAN ORDER OF ODD-FELLOWS.

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TORONTO:
NEWTON & TRELOAR, PRINTERS,
1897.

CONSTITUTION

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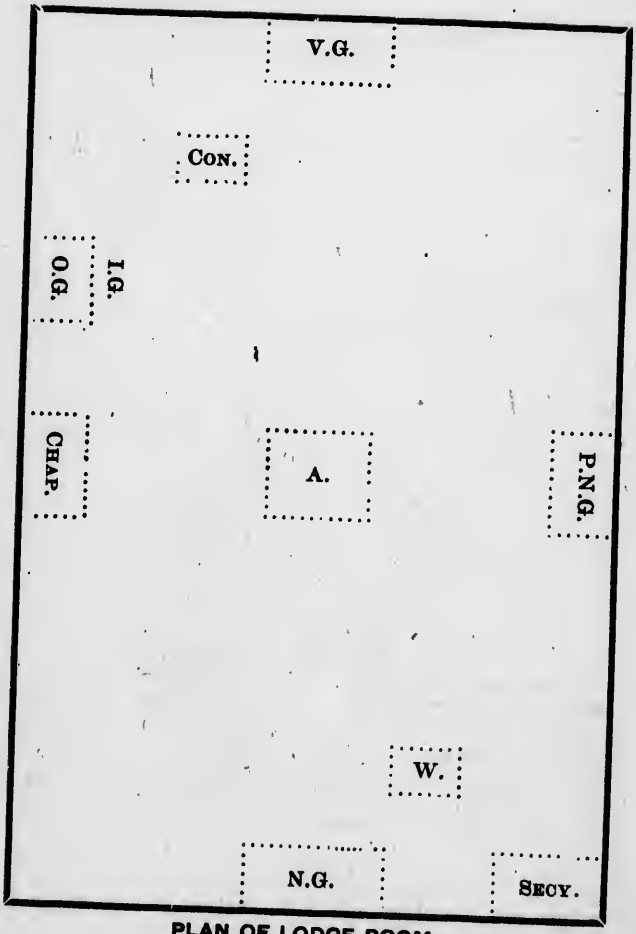

PLAN OF LODGE ROOM.

CONSTITUTION.

SECTION A.

TITLE, OBJECT AND GOVERNMENT.

ART. 1.—The name of this organization shall be "THE DAUGHTERS OF RUTH." Its membership shall consist of white females over sixteen years of age and under fifty, of good moral character, and undoubted loyalty to the Government of the countries where the organization is established. Its objects shall be of a social and benevolent character and the uplifting and bettering of humanity. It shall be divided into Lodges governed by by-laws made in accordance with the constitution of the Order and subject to the authority of the Grand Lodge of the Canadian Order of Odd-Fellows. And in all matters not herein expressly provided for the Constitution and Laws of the C.O.O.F. shall govern.

ART. 2.—Any respectable person wishing to organize a lodge must write the Grand Secretary of the C.O.O.F., giving full particulars, and if the Grand Secretary be satisfied he shall, on receipt of the charter list and $25.00, issue a charter with books and rituals for the proper working of the Lodge. No Lodge shall be started with less than fifteen members.

ART. 3.—Any member of the C.O.O.F. may become a member of the Daughters of Ruth on payment of $1.00 and a weekly contribution of five cents thereafter.

ART. 4.—No one shall be initiated into the Order for less than $1.00.

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ART. 5.—Each Lodge shall control its funds, but no money shall be paid out except for the legitimate expenses of the said Lodge, unless each member has been duly notified to attend a meeting to discuss the same.

ART. 6.—Five members shall be a quorum in default of which no business shall be transacted other than the receipt of Lodge dues.

ART. 7.—The N.G. shall call a special meeting when requested to do so in writing by five members. The N.G. shall instruct the Secretary to notify all members in writing of said meeting.

ART. 8.—There shall be elected by ballot on the last Lodge night in March and September a Noble Grand, Vice-Grand. Warden, Conductor, Chaplain, Inside Guard, Outside Guard, Secretary, Treasurer, three Trustees, and three Auditors, who shall hold office for six months. The retiring N.G. shall occupy the P.N.G.'s chair for the same length of time. Nominations and election shall take place on the same Lodge night, the installing of officers at the following Lodge meeting.

ART. 9.—In case a sufficient number of members are not willing to accept office the N.G. shall cause a ballot to be taken from the membership roll book, and any member or members drawn shall take the office or offices vacant for the ensuing term, or be fined 50c. P. G's. and members residing two miles from the lodge room excepted.

ART. 10.—All female members over 18 years and under 40 years of age, after passing a satisfactory medical examination, may participate in the Assurance Fund of the C.O.O.F. to the extent of $250, or $500, at their option, but shall, however, be subject to the provisions of Section E of the Constitution of the C.O.O.F. in so far as the same are applicable.

ART. 11.—Members participating in the said insurance fund shall pay the following amounts monthly in advance, and the Secretary shall forward the same to the Grand Secretary of the C.O.O.F. before the seventh day of each month.

Age.	RATE. $250.	$500.
18	.15	.30
19	.16	.31
20	.17	.32
21	.18	.33
22	.19	.34
23	.20	.35
24	.21	.36
25	.22	.37
26	.23	.38
27	.24	.39
28	.25	.40
29	.26	.41
30	.27	.42
31	.28	.43
32	.29	.44
33	.30	.45
34	.31	.46
35	.32	.47
36	.33	.48
37	.34	.50
38	.35	.51
39	.36	.52
40	.37	.55

ART. 12.—A per capita tax of fifty cents per member per year shall be paid to the Grand Lodge of the C.O.O.F., and forwarded to the Grand Secretary in equal portions before the 1st days of the months of July and January in each year.

ART. 13.—Any lodge may pay its members, who pay not less than ten cents a week there-

fore, a sick benefit; but no lodge shall pay a sick benefit of more than $2.00 per week, nor for a longer period that thirteen weeks in any twelve months. No lodge shall pay any female member any sick benefit for any puerperal disease or sickness or any illness arising therefrom. A member shall have been sick for at least one full week before becoming entitled to any relief.

SECTION B.

ART. 1.—Candidates shall be voted upon by ballot after being proposed at a previous lodge meeting and shall be initated within two months. Three black balls will cause rejection, but in case of supposed error the ballot may be re-taken by resolution of the lodge provided no member has left the room. The full name, age, profession and place of abode of candidates shall be given with application. Fifty cents must be paid with the application, which shall be deducted from the initiation fee, but if the candidate should be rejected it shall be returned.

ART. 2.—No member shall vote or take office in the lodge the night he or she is initiated, or the night a card of clearance, is deposited except it be at the opening of a new lodge.

ART. 3.—Lodges shall meet at least once a month, oftener if practicable. All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer and singing. All must give the password, to show their right to be present, to the satisfaction of the N. G.

ART. 4.—All lodges shall meet regularly on the evening appointed not earlier than half past six nor later than half past eight o'clock. No lodge shall be closed earlier than one hour from the time of opening.

ART. 5.—Each lodge shall hold a quarterly meeting on the first lodge night in January, April, July and October in each year to which every member residing within five miles shall be summoned by the Secretary. The summons shall state the amount owing to the Lodge, and the Secretary shall send such summons three days before the meeting. The balance sheet with the Auditors' report shall be read each quarterly meeting, and no by-law shall be made, altered or rescinded except at a meeting to which the lodge has been summoned. Notice of alteration or addition to the by-laws shall be given at least one lodge night previous to being considered.

ART. 6.—The key and password shall be kept by the N. G. of each Lodge, and if the N. G. should improperly expose either key or password she shall be expelled, or suffer such punishment as the E.G.O. of the C.O.O.F. may deem proper. The N. G. shall give the password to members of the Order legally entitled thereto, and no other officer or member shall make it known to any other member except with the authority of the N. G.

ART. 7.—Any member letting his or her dues run for one quarter without paying, shall be suspended till said dues are paid.

ART. 8.—Each Lodge shall make a semi-annual return of the number of members good upon the books, the name of each member initiated, with age, trade or calling, and whether married or single, the name of each member bad on the books and all members run out or left by clearance during the past half year and forward the same to the Grand Secretary of the C.O.O.F., duly certified by the N.G., on or before the 1st days of April and October in each year. Any lodge breaking this law or making out an incorrect report shall be fined $1.00.

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ART. 9.—Any member letting his or her dues run for six months without paying, shall be expelled from the Order, but he or she may be reinstated by paying up the amount owing to the Lodge.

ART. 10.—On or before the 20th of January in each year the Secretary of each Subordinate Lodge shall make a return of its members and financial standing, including all assets and liabilities, to the Grand Secretary of the C.O.O.F., and the whole shall be embodied by him in one general report and presented to the Grand Lodge of the C.O.O.F. Any Lodge not making the annual report in the prescribed time shall be fined $1 00.

ART. 11.—Any member of the Order intending to deposit a card of clearance shall deposit 50 cents with said card. He or she shall be ballotted for and three black balls shall cause rejection.

SECTION C.

ART. 1.—Lodges shall have power to form committees to try minor offences immediately when the penalty does not exceed suspension. The committee shall consist of not less than five members, together with the N.G., who shall preside, and shall be chosen in the following manner, viz.: The name and number of each member shall be placed in the ballot box, and the first five names or numbers drawn shall constitute the committee; each party having the right to object to three members In case of objections the ballot shall be continued till the requisite number is chosen. Members living three miles from lodge room are excepted.

ART. 2.—When a dispute or other matter of a serious nature, which is likely to cause the expulsion of a member or members arises, the evidence of both parties shall be taken by the Secretary and the same forwarded to the E.G.O., of the C.O.O.F., who shall decide the matter.

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